

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 12 (currently amended): A playback device comprising:

reading means for reading a string of uniform sized blocks where variable-rate encoded audio information is distributed over successive non-uniform sized audio units that each comprise one or more audio packets distributed among the blocks;

data selection means for selecting one or more block headers and determining the ~~presence of the~~ start of an audio unit in the block using the block header of the block; and

assembling means for assembling audio units from said blocks using said block headers, and consequently assembling an audio unit from the audio packets.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The playback device of claim 12, wherein the data selection means ~~determine~~ determines the presence of a start of an audio unit in a block using a logical non-audio unit start indicator present in a block header.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The playback device of claim 12, wherein the data selection means ~~determine~~ determines the presence of a start of an audio unit in an audio packet using a logical packet audio unit start indicator present in a block header.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The playback device of claim 12, wherein the date selection means ~~detect~~ detects a next following audio unit using a pointer in a block header pointing to a block containing the start of a next following audio unit.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The playback device of claim 12, wherein the date selection means ~~select~~ selects a time code of a particular audio unit comprised in a block header for effecting a jump by a pre-specified amount of time.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The playback device of claim 12, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a predetermined duration of replay of the audio information contained in the audio units is the same for multiple audio units.